

Tom Horne
Superintendent

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ARIZONA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

SUPERINTENDENT TOM HORNE RESPONDS TO HUERTA HATE SPEECH

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: Friday, April 14, 2006

PHOENIX (April 14, 2006) – State Superintendent Horne today issued a statement regarding a speech given at Tucson High Magnet School by labor activist Dolores Huerta. In the speech, Mrs. Huerta stated that Republicans hate Latinos and that students should ditch school in order to demonstrate.

Horne stated: “I am a statewide elected Republican and my strongest support group in my last election were Latino parents who wanted their children to learn English. Therefore, I can personally testify to the inaccuracy of Mrs. Huerta’s hate speech. I also think it is unfortunate that students were urged, in a school assembly, to ditch school. I support the precious First Amendment right of students to demonstrate, and see that as an educational opportunity for teaching students about their constitutional rights. However, we all have both rights and responsibilities, and the students’ responsibility was to study during school hours and to demonstrate after school if they chose to demonstrate.”

Horne added: “It is important that the students in the Tucson schools hear both sides. I hereby offer to them as a speaker, Margaret Garcia Dugan, Deputy Superintendent of Schools, the number two person in the Department of Education. She can speak to the students about why she is proud to be a Latina and why she is proud to be a Republican.”

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